

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1339

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2481

E.O. 11652
TAGS: SHUM, OAS, CS
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: COOPERATION WITH GOCR IN VIII OASGA

REFS: (A) STATE 142698 (B) STATE 136073

1. CHARGE AND POLOFF MET WITH FONMIN RAFAEL ANGEL CALDERON AND CHEF DU CABINET VICTORIA DE HERNANDEZ JUNE 8 ON IAHC STATUS. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF OASGA ISSUES AS OUTLINED REF B AND REVIEW OF OUR CONCERNS RE IAHC AS LAID OUT IN REF A, FONMIN STATED THAT COSTA RICA WOULD ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN EFFORT TO REGULARIZE STATUS OF IAHC AT OASGA. FONMIN FURTHER STATED THAT HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO WORK CLOSELY WITH US IN THIS ENDEAVOR, AND ASKED CHEF DU CABINET AND VICE FONMIN NIEHAUS TO PRODUCE A DRAFT RESOLUTION ASAP. FONMIN SAID HE EXPECTED THAT HIS MINISTRY'S DRAFT WMBLD BE READY FOR TRANSMISSION TO DEPARTMENT AND TO COSTA RICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON JUNE 9.

2. FONMIN NOTED FURTHER THAT BECAUSE OF NEWNESS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FACT THAT MANY NEW COSTA RICAN DIPLOMATS ARE NOT YET AT POST, HE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE U.S. HELP IN CONTACT WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

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3. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION, CALDERON SAID THAT PRIME INTEREST OF GOCR IS TO SEE SAN JOSE PACT ENTER INTO FORCE ASAP. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING PROPOSING MODIFICATIONS TO PACT IN CASE RATIFICATION BY ELEVEN NATIONS WILL BE TOO LONG IN COMING. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY HE WAS CONSIDERING, HE NOTED, WAS TO PRESS AGAIN FOR REDUCTION OF RATIFICATION MEMBER TO SEVEN.

CALDERON ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT US READING WAS ON HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO GET THE ELEVENTH VOTE AND WHETHER ANY MODIFICATION OF PACT WOULD HELP SPEED ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE. DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE REQUESTED SOONEST.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CALDERON CLEARLY IS WILLING TO ATTEMPT TO LEAD IN EFFORT TO REGULARIZE STATUS OF IAHRG, WE SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC AS TO HIS ABILITY TO DO SO AT THIS TIME. THAT COSTA RICA HAS ONLY TWO AMBASSADORS IN PLACE IN HEMISPHERE AT THIS POINT IS A SERIOUS CONSTRAINING FACTOR. ANOTHER MAY BE HIS NEWNESS TO THE OAS GAME AND HIS LACK OF ACQUAINTANCE WITH OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE IS GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP AND ADVICE WE CAN PROVIDE.
KILDAY

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